



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 125
[2014 Assembly Bill 595]

**Various Changes to Programs
Administered by the PSC**

2013 Wisconsin Act 125 makes changes regarding all of the following:

PSC Certificates

The Act removes a requirement that the Public Service Commission (PSC) must petition the Dane County Circuit Court for an extension of the 180-day deadline for taking action on an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity and instead allows the chairperson of the PSC to extend that deadline for up to an additional 180 days. The Act also changes under what circumstances certain exemptions from PSC certification apply.

Public Utility Rate Schedules

The Act allows public utilities to keep copies of rate schedules that must be accessible to the public on file at the public utility and available to the public at locations where customer payments are accepted, on the utility's Internet site, or in a form and place that is otherwise readily accessible to the public.

Telecommunications Regulation

The Act exempts alternative telecommunications utilities (ATUs) from the PSC authority to require public utilities to record or report certain accidents, revises the definition of ATU so that it does not include cable television telecommunications service providers (CTTSPs) or pay telephone service providers, and repeals the annual filing requirement for CTTSPs and administrative rules relating to CTTSPs. The Act also provides that a former CTTSP that the PSC had certified as an ATU is considered certified as an ATU on the basis that the person offers telecommunications service available from other telecommunications providers.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

Legislative Repeal or Modification of Agency Rules

The Act provides that legislation that repeals or modifies an administrative rule is not subject to the ordinary rule-making procedures under current law.

Tampering with Telecommunications or Electric Wires

The Act adds telegraph companies and electric light companies to the list of entities for which it is a Class A misdemeanor to intentionally make a physical electrical connection with the entity's property.

Effective date: The Act took effect on February 7, 2014, except that requirements related to how the Legislative Reference Bureau publishes the Administrative Register and Administrative Code take effect on January 1, 2015.

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March 26, 2014

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